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A bill to amend

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, FEB. 14, 1865.—Read first and second times; postponed; made order of day for to-morrow, 12 o'clock; to be printed.

[By Mr. J. M. SMITH, from Committee on Military Affairs.]

A BILL

To amend an Act to organize Forces to serve during the War.

1 Whereas it has become necessary to revoke and prohibit all
2 details of men under the age of forty, except of artisans, me-
3 chanics and scientific persons, and to repeal all exemptions of
4 agriculturists: And whereas the reduced numbers of the ex-
5 isting organizations in the army has rendered consolidation an
6 unavoidable military necessity, which in most instances will
7 operate to change the relations between soldiers and their offi-
8 cers: And whereas the safety of the country requires that all
9 men absent without leave, or liable to military service, shall at
10 all hazards, and by every means practicable, be brought into the
11 field at the earliest possible moment, and existing laws have not
12 proved efficient for that purpose: Therefore,

1 SECTION 1. The Congress of the Confederate States of Ame-
2 rica do enact, That soldiers in the reserve corps over forty-five
3 years of age, whose sole pursuit at the time of enrollment was

4 agriculture, shall be discharged from the military service of the
5 Confederate States within thirty days next after the date of the
6 passage of this act. All other soldiers over the age aforesaid
7 in said reserve corps, shall be discharged therefrom by the first
8 day of September next; and hereafter all conscriptions for such
9 service shall be of persons between the ages of seventeen and
10 eighteen; and any soldier in the provisional army of the Con-
11 federate States, who is now or shall hereafter arrive at fifty years
12 of age, shall be entitled to his discharge.

1 SEC. 2. That hereafter it shall not be lawful to conscribe any
2 person under this or any existing law, until the President shall
3 have first made his requisition upon the Governor of the State
4 for men liable to the military service of the Confederate States,
5 and the Governor shall have failed to comply with such requi-
6 sition. The Governors of the States, in filling such requisitions,
7 are hereby authorized to consider as subject thereto soldiers of
8 the army of the Confederate States who, at the date of the
9 passage of this act, were absent from their commands without
10 leave, and may organize the troops so furnished into companies,
11 battalions and regiments: Provided, That the rank and number
12 of the officers, and the complement of men in each organization
13 so formed, shall be the same as is required in similar organiza-
14 tions in the army of the Confederate States; and such compa-
15 nies, battalions and regiments, when so formed, shall be turned
16 over to, and become part of the provisional army of the Con-
17 federate States.

1 SEC. 3. That soldiers of the army, absent without leave at
2 the date of the passage of this act, shall be and they are hereby
3 allowed to volunteer in any organization from their respective
4 States: Provided, That the privilege given by this section shall
5 not continue longer than sixty days from and after the date of
6 the passage of this act: And provided further, That no soldier
7 shall be allowed to volunteer, under the provisions of this sec-
8 tion, in an arm of the service different from that to which he
9 now belongs.

1 SEC. 4. That the General commanding a department or army
2 in the field, may in his discretion grant leave of absence to offi-
3 cers of reduced organizations, for the purpose of recruiting the
4 same in their respective States, from persons liable to conscrip-
5 tion, or liable to be organized by the Governors of such States,
6 and turned over to the Confederate States, under the provisions
7 of this act.

1 SEC. 5. That the President may, in his discretion, authorize
2 such persons as he deems competent to raise new organizations,
3 to be composed of persons liable to conscription, or of soldiers
4 liable to be organized by the Governors of the respective States,
5 and turned over to the Confederate States, under the provisions
6 of this act.

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